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News Items from the School of Education of the University of Chicago

SUBSIDIES FOR INVESTIGATIONS

The newest foundation, namely, the Commonwealth Fund, has recently established a research committee which is to have \$100,000 a year to expend in educational research. The method of operation of this committee is to select educational investigators in different institutions and to give them the necessary funds for carrying on research. The laboratory of the Department of Education has contributed in recent years a number of notable studies in reading. The method employed in making these studies is that of photographing the eyes of children and adults during the process of reading. So significant are the results that have already been secured that the Commonwealth Fund has given the educational laboratory of the University of Chicago a subvention of \$15,000 for this calendar year to push forward these investigations. This will make possible a material enlargement of the equipment for photographing the eyes, and several members of the staff of the School of Education will devote a part of their time during the coming year to special researches in reading.

Under a second appropriation from the Commonwealth Fund, test material is being prepared for a scrutiny of the results of modern-language teaching, particularly as exemplified in the field of French. This investigation is under the general supervision of Professor Morrison, Superintendent of the Laboratory Schools. The material is being prepared and administered by Arthur G. Bovée, of the French Department of the University High School, with the collaboration and advice of other members of the Department. Statistical treatment of the data will be in the hands of Karl J. Holzinger, of the Faculty of the College of Education. It is hoped that the investigation will throw some light on the

following questions: To what extent do students learn to react to the thought of spoken and written discourse in the French language? To what extent do they learn to use the foreign tongue in expressing their own thoughts? What relation is there between knowledge of grammatical principles and (*a*) ready reaction to meaning and (*b*) facility in grammatical usage. What differential learning characteristics seem to be disclosed in terms of age of students? The Laboratory has available subjects ranging in school grade from the fourth grade to university Freshmen and from age nine to full maturity. What relation is there between vocalization and effective language learning? Exploration of this field depends somewhat on the possibility of devising an effective instrument for gauging the grade of vocalization.

THE NEW YORK SURVEY

A committee of twenty-one, representing the various farm organizations and women's organizations of New York state, began an agitation a year ago for a survey of the schools of the villages and rural districts of New York state. This survey is to cover such matters as the training of teachers, the organization of the course of study, and the relation of these districts to the State Department of Education at Albany. The committee finally secured the necessary funds for a state-wide survey, and organized an executive committee consisting of representatives of Cornell University and the State Department of Education. This executive committee in turn has employed a staff of educators who are to make the survey. For the division dealing with school supervision and administration the Department of Education of the University of Chicago was asked to supply experts. Professor Judd and Professor Bobbitt have been put in charge of this division of the survey. Two of the graduate students in the Department are now in Albany co-operating with Professor Judd and Professor Bobbitt in working up the detailed information. Professor Bobbitt spent the Winter Quarter in Albany and in visiting the various school districts throughout the state. Professor Judd will spend the month of September in New York. He is in Albany frequently for purposes of consultation and investigation.